



Town of Simsbury

933 HOPMEADOW STREET

P.O. BOX 495

SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

Lisa L. Heavner - First Selectman

First Selectman's Report – June 27, 2016

Simsbury in the News

It has been a great month for Simsbury in the news! Check out these recent accolades.

Safest Places to Live in Connecticut: Simsbury was recently ranked among the *15 Safest Places to Live* in Connecticut and *first* in the Hartford area by *Alarm System Reviews*. According to their website, rankings were based on data collected from several sources including the FBI's annual Uniform Crime Report. The report looked at total number of violent crimes and property crimes compared with population. You can see the report at:

<http://www.alarmsystemreviews.com/safest-places-connecticut-2016>

2016 Best Communities for Music Education: According to the website, *Connecticut by the Numbers*, Simsbury is among the thirteen Connecticut school districts recognized as a 2016 Best Communities for Music Education by the NAMM foundation. To qualify for the designation, "school districts provided detailed information about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs." To see the report, please visit:

<http://ctbythenumbers.info/2016/06/15/13-ct-school-districts-named-among-nations-best-in-music-education/>

Niche.com "2016 Best Places to Raise a Family": Niche.com has rated Simsbury among the top *Best Places* in Connecticut to raise a family. Weatogue at #6 and the Town of Simsbury at #9 make the top 10 and are *first* in the Farmington Valley and in Hartford County. West Simsbury comes in at #13. To see the full rankings, click or visit here:

<http://local.niche.com/rankings/places/best-places-for-families/s/connecticut/>

Tax Bills will be Mailed on June 28th

Taxes to the Town of Simsbury are due July 1, 2016 with the last day to pay as August 1, 2016. Taxes due at this time include Real Estate, Motor Vehicles and Business Personal Property taxes. Sewer Use fees are also due for payment.

DMV – Car Issues

Due to all of the Department of Motor Vehicle changes in the past year, we are asking all residents to verify that you received all of your car bills. If you received a tax bill from Simsbury and you never lived in Simsbury, please contact the Simsbury Assessor's office at 860-658-3251 or if you received a bill from another town and you never lived there, please contact *that town's* assessor's office.

Senior Center Communicator

As part of an ongoing effort to keep the community informed about activities offered at the Senior Center, the Town publishes a newsletter every two months listing programs and activities. Check out the latest *Senior Center Communicator* and all that is happening at the Senior Center in the next few months: [http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/simsburyct/files/news/july -
august 2016.pdf](http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/simsburyct/files/news/july-_august_2016.pdf)

We invite you to stop by the Senior Center next time you are in town. Questions? Contact the Senior Center at (860) 658-3273.

Remember to Sign Up For Emergency Alerts – Sign up for All Three

Summer is a good time to sign up for Emergency Alerts with the Town and the State. We are encouraging residents to sign up for all three Alert systems so we can get you information in a timely manner:

1. Town News and Announcements: for general information about storm preparations and emergencies. News and Announcements also allows you to receive information on town news, events, programs, the First Selectman's Report and other activities.
<http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/subscriber>
2. Simsbury Community Alerts: for receiving time critical notifications such as road closures, emergency shelter openings and community updates regarding weather, emergency and other important information.
<http://member.everbridge.net/index/453003085612632#/login>
3. CT Alert – Connecticut's Emergency Alert System: for receiving important emergency information on weather or natural disasters, major crimes or other important information.
<http://www.ctalert.gov/ctalert/site/default.asp>

The Town is committed to providing residents with up-to-date information about storm preparations and emergencies. Help us get information to you in a timely manner by signing up for these alerts!

Town Road Paving Schedule

Road paving work for 2016 is now available! A list of roads scheduled to be paved during the 2016 construction season is posted on the Department of Public Works webpage. Adjustments to the schedule may be required depending on weather and other factors influencing paving work. Letters are being sent to residents on the identified streets notifying them of anticipated work. You can see what roads are scheduled to be paved by clicking here:

<http://www.simsbury-ct.gov/sites/simsburyct/files/uploads/pavingschedule2016.pdf>

Simsbury Farms Ice Rink Warming Room Construction

Beginning on Monday, June 27, construction will take place on the new Ice Rink Warming Room at Simsbury Farms. Construction will necessitate the use of approximately 14 spaces at the West end of the golf course parking lot, adjacent to the rink, for equipment and materials.

We appreciate your cooperation and patience during this period and will do everything possible to minimize the disruption. Thank you.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station New at Town Hall

New at Town Hall is an Electric Vehicle Charging station which will be up and running this week and is free to the public. Thank you to Public Works and the Clean Energy Task Force for their efforts on this project. Check it out!

Farwell and Welcome to Town Hall

Fond Farewells:

Please join me in sending best wishes to Carolyn Keily who is retiring after 32 years as Simsbury's Town Clerk. Ms. Keily was an outstanding public servant and we will miss her.

In addition, please wish Stephanie Riefe all the best as she moves on to a new job as Assistant Director of Communications at Westminster School. Stephanie has served as our Communications Specialist since February 2014 and many of us remember her fondly for her incredible support during the October, 2011 snow storm when she worked for the Patch. We will miss her as well.

Warm Welcomes:

Please join me in welcoming Ericka Butler as our new Town Clerk. Ericka joins us with experience as the Deputy Town Clerk in the Town of Southington where she worked for nine years. The interviewing committee unanimously recommended Ericka as their top choice and she joins our community with stellar recommendations.

We are also pleased to welcome Sean Kimball as the new Director of Finance/Treasurer for the Town of Simsbury. Sean has served as the Interim Director of Finance twice and as Deputy Director of Administrative Services for the town since 2011. Sean has a *Master of Public Administration* from the University of Connecticut. Before coming to Simsbury, Sean worked at the Office of Management and Budget for the City of New Haven and the Finance Department in the City of San Jose. He brings with him extensive familiarity with the Town of Simsbury and we are looking forward to having him serve in this capacity.

Sarah Loudenslager joined the Simsbury Public Library as Business Resource Center Coordinator on June 22. Sarah comes to us from Salisbury University in Salisbury, Maryland where she was a Business & Instructional Librarian for the past four years. Prior to that, Sarah was at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh – Downtown & Business branch as a Reference Librarian. Also, she was involved in an innovative and experimental project that involved planning, marketing and opening Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's newest location (at the time) in the Strip District's Pittsburgh Public Market. Her degrees include a Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) from the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania and a Bachelor of Science in Education from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania. You may reach Sarah at 860-658-7663 ext. 2107 or sarahl@simsburylibrary.info.

Stop by to say hello next time you are in Town Hall or the Library!

Five Fridays of Fun with the Talcott Mountain Music Festival

The schedule is out for the Talcott Mountain Music Festival at the Simsbury Meadows Performing Arts Center!

- Friday, July 1 @ 7:30 p.m. Celebrate America!
- Friday, July 8 @ 7:30 p.m. Starlets
- Friday, July 15 @ 7:30 p.m. Appalachian Spring
- Friday, July 22 @ 7:30 p.m. A Tribute to Ray Charles
- Friday, July 29 @ 7:30 p.m. Faithfully

To see all that is offered at the Simsbury Performing Arts Center, visit:

<http://simsburymeadowsmusic.com/>

Open for Business

Hope Family Dentistry: Congratulations to Dr. Douglas Hope and Cathy Hope on the re-opening of their new office for Hope Family Dentistry at 8 Plank Hill. Thank you for staying in Simsbury!

Peachwave: Congratulations to Jim and Stefania Pasternak who will be taking over as the new owners of Peachwave on July 1st with a ribbon cutting scheduled for July 13th at 4:30. They will be introducing gelato to the menu! Congratulations and welcome.

Thai Ocha Restaurant: Congratulations and welcome are also in order to Techapon Sornloon on the opening of his new restaurant, Thai Ocha Restaurant, located at 1616 Hopmeadow Street. A ribbon cutting will be held later in July. Check out their authentic Thai food offerings at www.thaiochact.com.

Law Offices of Nicole Veno, LLC:

Congratulations and welcome to Nicole Veno on the opening of her law offices located at 573 Hopmeadow Street. A ribbon cutting is scheduled for July 12th at 4:00 p.m.

Gymnastics Training Center: Jason Ross and his wife are the new owners of the Gymnastics Training Center, located at 520 Hopmeadow Street in Simsmore Square. We welcome them to Simsbury and look forward to working with them.

Pastels Catering: Pastels Catering has moved within Simsbury to a new location at 542 Hopmeadow Street in Simsmore Square. Thanks Suzanne Sabia and Jeanne Mainville Denalsky for staying in Simsbury!

Meadow Asian Cuisine: You may have noticed a small addition in front of Meadow Asian Cuisine, located at 532 Hopmeadow Street in Simsmore Square. Property owner Nord Christensen's team built space to move coolers from the kitchen to the new space, giving Meadow's staff much needed kitchen space. This is great news for owner Sam Lin.

Under Construction in Simsbury

Green Tea Chinese Restaurant, located at 570 Hopmeadow Street, temporarily closed on June 5, 2016 for significant renovations, and will re-open with a new name and a new Asian-fusion style menu. The renovations are expected to take approximately four months. Looking forward to the re-opening!

Big Y has indicated that they have delayed a start date in Simsbury for at least a year and possibly into 2018 based on internal financial priorities and commitments elsewhere, but will begin removal of the buildings on their property. Big Y further indicated that they are still interested in Simsbury and confirmed that they have all their town and state permits in place for when they do begin.

The Silverman Group: Simsbury's Planning Department has been advised that The Silverman Group continues to press forward on their plans to develop/redevelop the site located at 200 Hopmeadow Street (formerly The Hartford). The property underwent a Charrette planning process and is currently zoned for residential, commercial and retail. The Silverman Group is close to completing the demolition of the data wing located on the northern portion of property and will be moving south with the intent to complete structural demolition by the end of July.

Garden Homes on the south side of town along Hopmeadow Street is now under construction. This development was approved for 181 residential rental units, including townhomes and apartment style housing. Commercial and retail units were also approved as part of the Planned Area Development (PAD), but zoning and specific site plan approvals have yet to be sought and therefore only the residential component is under construction at this time. You can visit Garden Homes' website at <http://www.gardenhomes.com/> for more information about the development company.

Highcroft: 272 residential units for rent by Land Works as part of the Highcroft Apartment Homes and Highcroft Townhomes along Powder Forest Drive are also under construction. This development includes 224 apartments, lofts and 48 townhomes. This development includes rentals and condominiums. Units are coming on line in July. You can visit their website at: <http://www.lifeinsimsbury.com/find-a-home/>

Berkshire Bank: At the Corner of Bushy Hill and Albany Turnpike, Berkshire Bank is working on interior fit-out and is not yet open.

Hoskins Road Workforce Overlay Zone (WHOZ): The Town planning boards have approved 88 residential units for the property with twenty percent affordable housing. Although the project has been approved there is currently no activity.